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Chapter I
Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/141, provides an overview of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at headquarters and in the field between August 2014 and July 2015.

2. This is the first report of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly since he took up his duties in September 2014. It is structured along the lines of the OHCHR thematic priorities detailed in its management plan for 2014-2017[1] and concludes with an outline of his change initiative, aimed at restructuring OHCHR.

3. As at July 2015, OHCHR was supporting 64 human rights field presences. A new country office was established in Burundi, in January, and an office in Seoul,[2] in June. An agreement was signed to open an office in Honduras. OHCHR closed its offices in Kosovo[3] and Togo, while the human rights adviser posts in Ecuador and Honduras were discontinued.

4. During the reporting period, the High Commissioner undertook missions to Burundi, France, the Republic of Korea, Tunisia and the United States of America; the Deputy High Commissioner visited Colombia; and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights concluded missions to Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine, and took part in the Secretary-General's missions to Brussels, El Salvador, Honduras and Ireland, as well as a regional trip to Central Asia.

[1] Discrimination, impunity and rule of law, poverty, economic, social and cultural rights, migration, violence and insecurity, human rights mechanisms: see www2.ohchr.org/english/ohchrreport2014_2017/omp_web_version/index.html#/downloads.

[2] See Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

[3] All references to Kosovo in the present report should be understood to be in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Chapter II
Thematic priorities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

A. Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

1. Human Rights Council

5. The Human Rights Council continued to be actively engaged in urgent and chronic human rights situations and held three special sessions. At the twenty-first special session a Commission of Inquiry was established on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, in the context of the military operations conducted since 13 June 2014. Its report was considered by the Council at its twenty-ninth session, at which it decided to take follow-up measures.

6. Pursuant to resolution S-22/1, adopted by the Council at its twenty-second special session, on 1 September 2014, OHCHR dispatched a mission to investigate and report on alleged violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of international human rights law committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated terrorist groups and submitted a report which was considered in an interactive dialogue at the Council's twenty-eighth session.

7. Subsequent to the Council's twenty-third special session, on 1 April 2015, the Office prepared a report on violations and abuses of human rights and atrocities committed by Boko Haram in the affected States, with a view towards accountability, which was considered by the Council in an interactive dialogue at its twenty-ninth session.

8. The Council also requested the High Commissioner to urgently dispatch a mission to investigate violations and abuses of international human rights law committed in Libya since early 2014 and to prepare a report on human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar. In addition, OHCHR was requested to urgently undertake a mission to engage with the Government of South Sudan, monitor and report on the situation of human rights, undertake a comprehensive assessment of alleged violations and abuses of human rights, and make recommendations for technical assistance and ways to improve the human rights situation. The Council also extended the mandates of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea for another year.

9. During the reporting period, three new special procedures mandates were established, on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism and on the right to privacy. The establishment of these new mandates is testimony to the proactive stand of the Council in responding to human rights emergencies and dealing with a vast array of human rights situations. The High Commissioner welcomes also the fact that the Council is increasingly relying on flexible mechanisms within the framework of institution building.[4] The High Commissioner further proposed that the President of the Council organize an informal briefing on issues relating to his field visits and

[4] Resolution 5/1.

migrants at sea, and was gratified by the outcome, the holding of an enhanced interactive dialogue on migrants in June.

10. The increasing number of activities and innovations have an impact on the workload of the Council, and the High Commissioner is pleased to provide substantive support to the noteworthy efforts by the Council and its President and Bureau in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. It is crucial that these efforts continue over the year to come, to ensure appropriate and efficient working modalities.

11. During the reporting period, the Council also held 22 panel discussions on a variety of issues, as organized by OHCHR. For instance, a full-day discussion on human rights and climate change was organized at the March session, at which the President of Kiribati and the Prime Minister of Tuvalu provided a powerful first-hand account from the front lines of the climate change battle. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Climate Change also participated in this high-level panel. The discussion showed that climate change had a profound impact on human rights and required urgent international cooperation and a rights-based approach, including application of the right to development, to ensure climate change prevention, adaptation and mitigation.

12. Against the background of increasing workload and complex Council modalities, participation by representatives of Governments of least developed and small island developing States in the work of the Council has become crucial but challenging. The establishment of the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review enables them to actively participate in and contribute to the Council's work. Eighteen of them received financial support from the Trust Fund. This positive trend should be sustained.

2. Universal periodic review

13. To date, all States to be reviewed have undergone the process of universal periodic review: the universality of the process must be retained as we approach the third cycle, while its effectiveness must be strengthened. The average number of recommendations remains high (189 per country). The High Commissioner is pleased to note that a growing number of voluntary midterm reports have been provided on the status of implementation of recommendations and the challenges faced in following up on the recommendations. OHCHR continued to cooperate with the International Organization of la Francophonie to reflect on improvements to the review modalities. It further developed its partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, notably in jointly organizing the third regional seminar for Asian parliamentarians in Manila in February.

14. OHCHR stepped up its efforts to respond to the increasing requests emanating from all regions for advice, technical cooperation and other forms of assistance in follow-up to the review. All OHCHR field presences have been actively engaged in supporting national counterparts in the preparation of their reviews and in the implementation of review recommendations.

15. In July, OHCHR organized seminars in Barbados and Brazil to assist English-speaking Caribbean States and Portuguese-speaking countries, respectively, in preparing for their reviews and sharing good practices.

16. The two universal periodic review trust funds enabling States to prepare for and participate in the review and to implement review outcomes have continued to

be increasingly used by States. The implementation fund has proven essential to strengthen the national processes, including standing interministerial structures for reporting and follow-up, as well as the development of enabling tools such as national implementation plans and databases for tracking purposes. The Council will soon embark upon the third universal periodic review cycle. It is of crucial importance to further focus more attention and energy on the follow-up to the numerous recommendations adopted during the first and second review cycles.

3. Special procedures

17. As at July 2015, there were 55 mandates and 79 mandate holder positions in total, of which 41 were thematic and 14 country-specific mandates. The number of standing invitations by Member States is 111.

18. In 2014, mandate holders submitted over 120 reports to the Council and the General Assembly, and conducted some 80 visits to 60 States and territories.[5] Mandate holders sent a total of 551 communications (concerning 1,059 individuals) to 117 States in 2014, of which 55 per cent had been responded to by July 2015. The response rate has slightly increased.

19. In 2015, the President of the Human Rights Council invited, for the first time, the Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures to present a report on the twenty-first annual meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and working groups of the special procedures (A/HRC/28/41) to the Council. The format of the report had been revised substantially and it gave a comprehensive picture of the challenges and achievements in relation both to individual mandates and the system. OHCHR also continued to facilitate coordination among special procedures and the harmonization of their working methods, including through the strengthening of the Coordination Committee.

20. OHCHR pursued its efforts to facilitate interaction among the special procedures and other international human rights mechanisms, the United Nations system, Member States and civil society. With support from OHCHR, the special procedures of the Council and of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights pursued their fruitful collaboration, particularly with regard to the right to life, extractive industries, indigenous peoples and the rights of women and girls.

21. The work of the special procedures has proved their value and critical importance, and the High Commissioner reiterates his call on Member States to fully cooperate with them. Extending standing invitations to them remains an important initial undertaking by a State, which the High Commissioner strongly encourages. At the same time, providing a working environment for them, without any obstacles or risk of retaliation in cooperation, is a crucial requirement.

4. Treaty bodies

22. The successful conclusion of the treaty body strengthening process led to the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 68/268, in which a series of measures to address key challenges faced by the treaty bodies is set out. These have now entered in force. Meeting time and human and financial resources from the regular budget have been allocated to OHCHR. This landmark resolution also

[5] African States (24 countries), Asia Pacific States (21), East European States (10), Latin American and Caribbean States (8) and Western European and other States (17).

includes a capacity-building package, providing for additional staff capacity in the regional offices. Under the measures, State officials will be trained at regional train-the-trainers events and a roster of such trainers for future activities will be established. National-level assistance will also be provided towards the establishment and effective functioning of standing national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up.

23. OHCHR continued to facilitate reporting by States parties in all regions. It supported the work of the 10 human rights treaty bodies, facilitating the review of State party reports, the adoption of views and decisions on individual communications, conducting country visits, organizing thematic debates and supporting the drafting of general comments and recommendations. OHCHR also supported treaty body work through rigorous media outreach to international and national journalists in order to ensure greater visibility of the work of the Committees. The High Commissioner once again calls on Member States to ratify the core 10 human rights treaties, and their related optional protocols, and to consider withdrawing reservations.

5. Humanitarian funds

24. In 2015, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture is supporting 187 projects providing direct assistance to victims of torture, along with a number of intersessional emergency projects. The United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery is providing direct assistance to victims of slavery (44 projects). OHCHR also administers the Special Fund under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

B. Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

1. Racial discrimination

25. With a view to eradicating racial discrimination and promoting equality, OHCHR provided advisory services on legislation, policies and programmes to Member States, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations in Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Indonesia, Mexico, the Russian Federation and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

26. In Mauritania, OHCHR provided technical advice in relation to the development and implementation of a roadmap based on the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences. Following up on the earlier work of OHCHR on the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, the office in Tunisia facilitated the establishment, in April, of the Civil Society Coalition for the Promotion of Tolerance and Against Incitement to Hatred in the Middle East and North Africa.

27. In 2014, five participants from Canada, Colombia, the Netherlands (Curacao), Sweden and the United States took part in a comprehensive human rights learning programme in the context of the Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent run by OHCHR.

2. Indigenous and minority issues

28. In the context of the first-ever World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in September 2014, OHCHR successfully advocated for robust participation of indigenous peoples and an outcome document rooted in human rights. Through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, OHCHR facilitated the participation of over one hundred indigenous representatives in the World Conference process. To support coherent follow-up to the World Conference, OHCHR brought United Nations agencies together in Geneva in December 2014.

29. The United Nations network on racial discrimination and the protection of minorities, coordinated by OHCHR, began implementation of its four-year action plan in line with the recommendations contained in the 2013 guidance note of the Secretary-General.

30. OHCHR continued to develop the capacity of indigenous peoples and minorities, including through its fellowship programmes. In 2014, the programme, available in five languages, supported 52 indigenous and minority fellows, including 10 based in OHCHR field presences.

31. OHCHR supported various efforts to improve legislation on indigenous peoples and minorities at the national level, through facilitation of dialogue between the Governments and indigenous peoples in Costa Rica and Panama. In Guatemala, OHCHR continued implementation of the Maya Programme, which empowers indigenous people to claim their rights in court through training and advice on strategic litigation.

3. Gender equality and women's rights

32. With a view to promoting respect for women's human rights and gender equality, OHCHR produced several documents, including one entitled "Women Rights are Human Rights", and reports on attacks against girls seeking access to education, and on good practices in combating female genital mutilation. Together with the United Nations Populations Fund and the Danish Institute for Human Rights, OHCHR developed a handbook for national human rights institutions on reproductive rights. In July 2015, an information series on sexual and reproductive health and rights was launched.

33. OHCHR continued to address stereotyping by the judiciary in cases of sexual and gender-based violence and implemented related projects in Guatemala and some West African countries. It also promoted the technical guidance on a human rights-based approach to child and maternal mortality and morbidity (see A/HRC/21/22), including through national assessments and stakeholders' dialogues.

34. OHCHR also assisted Member States in developing or revising family laws and legislation on issues such as violence against women and trafficking in persons in Myanmar, Senegal, Tunisia and Yemen, and helped to develop the capacity of the media, diplomats, non-governmental organizations, women's groups, judges, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders in Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the Gambia, Honduras, Lebanon, Mali, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Senegal and Switzerland.

35. To celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, OHCHR led a media campaign featuring 12 video profiles of women's human rights

defenders worldwide, and a social media component encouraging public solidarity with women's human rights defenders.

4. Discrimination on the basis of disability

36. The implementation of the Secretary-General's bulletin on employment and accessibility for staff members with disabilities in the United Nations Secretariat (ST/SGB/2014/3) advanced through targeted training.

37. OHCHR continued to enhance the accessibility of the Council's work for persons with disabilities. Two panel discussions were made accessible to persons with disabilities through international sign language interpretation and simultaneous live webcasting thereof, captioning in English and Braille printing on demand. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (see Human Rights Council resolution 26/20) reports to the Council and the General Assembly in accessible formats which include an easy-to-read version and a Braille copy of the report.

38. Together with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, OHCHR organized the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which focused on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

5. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender

39. In June 2015, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 27/32, OHCHR issued a report on violence and discrimination against individuals on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. It presented evidence of continuing, serious and widespread human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in all regions, as well as action by States. OHCHR continued its Free and Equal campaign to combat homophobia and transphobia worldwide. In May, a new campaign video was watched by over 9 million people via social media within two weeks of its release.

40. In Fiji, OHCHR trained media representatives on issues and terminology regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. In Moldova, the Office supported civil society partners in their work with police and other authorities to provide protection during pride marches. In Uganda, the Office supported a coalition of civil society organizations in putting together a report on human rights violations based on sex discrimination, gender identity and sexual orientation.

6. Discrimination against persons with albinism

41. As a result of awareness-raising activities undertaken or supported by OHCHR, the General Assembly proclaimed 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day and the Council decided to establish a new special procedure on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism. An OHCHR website, available in English and French, was launched in June to raise awareness on the rights of persons living with albinism.[6]

42. National strategies to combat violence and discrimination against persons with albinism were developed in Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania and Malawi as a result of OHCHR advocacy.

[6] See http://albinism.ohchr.org.

7. Discrimination on the basis of age

43. OHCHR advocacy includes a specific focus on the human rights of older persons, and on the elimination of ageism and age discrimination. Furthermore, OHCHR, together with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, supported the fifth and sixth sessions of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.

8. Discrimination against migrants

44. The High Commissioner has repeatedly expressed acute concern regarding the current global migration crises, including in Europe and South-East Asia, which will not be resolved unless a comprehensive, rights-based and systemic approach is adopted. Together with the principals of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Migration and Development, the High Commissioner issued several joint statements on the issue, which pointed to essential measures to be taken to safeguard human rights. The High Commissioner focused the attention of the Human Rights Council on the plight of migrants at sea during his informal briefing to the Council in May, which led to the holding of the enhanced interactive dialogue on migration at the June session.

45. In March, OHCHR issued a publication on the economic, social and cultural rights of migrants in an irregular situation, identifying some of the legal and practical barriers that prevented them from enjoying these rights, and highlighting good practices. Based on international human rights standards, the publication provides key messages of use to a wide range of stakeholders, enabling migrants and their advocates to defend these crucial rights and facilitating evidence-based counter-arguments to many of the myths and stereotypes surrounding irregular migrants.

46. OHCHR also carried out a training programme on the human rights of migrants for relevant departments and ministries of the Government of Tunisia, in partnership with the International Labour Organization and IOM. OHCHR regional offices in Asia and the Pacific monitored the situation of boat arrivals, trafficking and mandatory detention regimes for asylum seekers in the region. OHCHR also intervened to uphold the rights of Haitian migrants and people of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic.

47. OHCHR launched a set of recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders, translating the international human rights framework into practical border governance measures. In his report on the protection of migrants (A/69/277), the Secretary-General recommended that States consider implementing the principles and guidelines. They have subsequently been highlighted in resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.[7]

48. OHCHR sought to inject a human rights perspective into the global debate on migration, including through its role as co-Chair of the Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender of the Global Migration Group.

[7] A/RES/69/187, A/RES/69/167, A/HRC/29/L.3 and A/HRC/29/L.24.

C. Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

1. Administration of justice

49. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 25/4, OHCHR organized an expert consultation on the administration of justice through military tribunals and the role of the integral judicial system in combating human rights violations. OHCHR also provided advisory services on human rights norms applicable to military justice in Colombia, Nigeria, Somalia and Thailand.

50. After years of advocacy and advice on the subject by OHCHR, the Military Justice Code of Mexico was amended in June 2014 to remove from the competence of military jurisdiction the examination of human rights violations against civilians (but not against the military) perpetrated by military personnel.

51. With regard to the specific challenges that arise in the aftermath of natural disasters, joint efforts by OHCHR and the national human rights institutions in the Philippines addressed the legal limbo of detainees whose records had been destroyed or lost during typhoon Hayan.

52. OHCHR continued collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the context of expert meetings on a draft model law on legal aid in criminal justice systems and the review of a draft handbook on high-risk prisoners.

53. OHCHR, in collaboration with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, organized a workshop for members of the Constitution Drafting Assembly of Libya and advised Grenada, Myanmar, Thailand and Yemen in their efforts to either amend their existing constitutions or draft new ones.

2. Transitional justice

54. OHCHR prepared commentaries on legislation related to transitional justice in Mali and Nepal, provided advice on related issues in the context of the Central African Republic and South Sudan and assisted truth commissions in Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Tunisia. The focus remained on ensuring that the rights of victims were central in these processes, and that gender considerations were taken into account. These concerns are reflected in the OHCHR study on gender-based and sexual violence in relation to transitional justice (A/HRC/27/21).

55. OHCHR also provided comments and input on the draft African transitional justice policy framework, as well as on the draft European Union policy on transitional justice.

56. OHCHR published rule-of-law tools on archives for post-conflict States,[8] focused on the means to strengthen archives through the identification of good practice for the management of different types of records and archives. OHCHR, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), UN-Women, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict prepared a United Nations joint

[8] Available from www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_14_4_Archives_en.pdf.

submission on reparations in relation to the case of the *Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga*[9] before the International Criminal Court.

57. OHCHR provided technical advice in Sri Lanka, the Sudan (Darfur), Tunisia and Uganda regarding witness protection laws and the establishment of national witness protection programmes and measures.

3. Death penalty

58. OHCHR, in partnership with the Algerian National Consultative Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights organized a regional expert meeting on moving away from the death penalty in the Middle East and North Africa in Algeria. OHCHR also facilitated a regional meeting on the right to life and moratorium on the death penalty in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN States) in Indonesia. In parallel to the high-level panel discussion on regional efforts aimed at the abolition of the death penalty held at the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR organized a side event and an expert meeting on protection of the right of persons facing death penalty abroad, including migrants. An event on the death penalty, drug crimes and terrorism was organized during the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, in April. OHCHR also launched a publication related to the topic at a high-level panel discussion during the General Assembly,[10] and reported on the question of the death penalty in Iraq[11] and South-East Asia.[12] These efforts contributed to the fact that a growing number of States lent their support to moratoriums and abolition.[13]

4. Counter-terrorism policies and strategies

59. OHCHR continued to serve as United Nations lead in assisting Member States in efforts to adopt and implement counter-terrorism policies and strategies compliant with their international human rights obligations as described in the report of the High Commissioner to the Council on this topic (A/HRC/28/28).

60. As co-Chair of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism, OHCHR continued implementing a project on training and capacity-building for law enforcement officials on human rights, the rule of law and prevention of terrorism, and a series of practical basic human rights reference guides. OHCHR also endeavoured to mainstream human rights and the rule of law across all the activities of the Task Force.

5. Development of methodological guidance

61. Professionalizing human rights monitoring, fact-finding and investigation is a priority for OHCHR. New guidance tools were developed, including a practical

[9] See www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/doc/doc1977022.pdf.

[10] See http://www.ohchr.org/Lists/MeetingsNY/Attachments/27/moving_away_from_death_penalty_web.pdf.

[11] See www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/UNAMI_HRO_DP_1Oct2014.pdf.

[12] See http://bangkok.ohchr.org/files/Moving%20away%20from%20the%20Death%20Penalty-English%20for%20Website.pdf.

[13] General Assembly resolution 69/186, on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, was adopted with a record 117 votes in favour, 37 votes against and 34 abstentions.

guide for commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions, a glossary of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and new chapters of the OHCHR manual on human rights monitoring. The Human Rights Case Database, expanded to 24 field presences and headquarters, improved the quality of information gathering and reporting. OHCHR also continued to support investigations by commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions, including those on the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Iraq, Sri Lanka and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

62. Regarding the policy on human rights screening of United Nations personnel, OHCHR co-chaired an interdepartmental working group tasked with developing guidance and providing information to recruiting entities, and co-led with the United Nations Office for Human Resources Management a review of its implementation.

D. Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

1. Post-2015 development agenda and financing for development

63. OHCHR promoted the need to put all human rights, including the right to development, at the centre of intergovernmental and inter-agency deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda. OHCHR made substantive input to intergovernmental discussions, including on equality and non-discrimination, and accountability, which helped to ensure that human rights were reflected prominently in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970).

64. OHCHR further provided input to the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda and the technical support team on thematic issues related to goals and targets, data and measurement approaches, and illustrative indicators. Those efforts contributed to injecting human rights into key United Nations documents. The recommendations of OHCHR concerning the disaggregation of indicators on prohibited grounds of discrimination featured prominently in the report of the Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development.

65. To assist States to implement their human rights obligations towards migrants, notably in light of the discussion on the sustainable development goals, together with United Nations partners and civil society, OHCHR developed a set of human rights indicators for migrants, with an initial focus on the rights to health, education and decent work. In support of preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa, in July, the High Commissioner issued an open letter calling on all Member States to fully integrate human rights considerations into the Conference outcome document.

2. Human rights mainstreaming

66. Mainstreaming human rights in United Nations policy, management and operational work for peace, development, and humanitarian and economic affairs is a core component of the High Commissioner's mandate. OHCHR led the interagency efforts under the United Nations Development Group, which provides support to Resident Coordinators and United Nations country teams to enable them to respond to the needs of Member States in the field.

67. During the past year, OHCHR has contributed to the formulation and review of social and environmental safeguard policies for multilateral development banks and international development institutions, and participated in global consultations organized by the World Bank on its proposed new environmental and social framework. The recommendations of OHCHR were integrated into a number of these review exercises, helping to establish safeguard systems that anticipate, avoid and, where needed, remedy human rights violations associated with development projects.

68. In September 2014, OHCHR, with the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung, co-organized an expert workshop to discuss the effectiveness of human rights impact assessments as a tool for identifying, quantifying and assessing the ways in which trade and investment impact upon human rights. OHCHR conducted a multi-stakeholder expert workshop on the topic in Addis Ababa, in April.

3. Economic and social rights

69. It was underlined in a recent OHCHR thematic study on social protection floors and economic and social rights (A/HRC/28/35) that, if national social protection floors were established and implemented in accordance with human rights, they were likely to help achieve gender equality and respect for the minimum core of economic and social rights and reduce poverty.

70. OHCHR participated in the implementation of the 2010-2015 Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, which aims to support the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6 by 2015. With a view to the post-2015 development agenda, the Secretary-General will launch a renewed global strategy, this time on women's, children's and adolescents' health, in September 2015, with OHCHR leading the human rights sub-work stream.

71. In the lead-up to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be held in Quito in October 2015, the Office contributed to several of the issue papers on the development of a new urban agenda to ensure that human rights are at the centre of sustainable and prosperous urbanization.

72. In Kyrgyzstan, OHCHR advocacy on housing, land and property rights increased transparency and effective and inclusive public participation in urban planning. In particular, support by OHCHR enabled the national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to monitor economic, social and cultural rights more effectively, including through monitoring budget and human rights indicators.

73. As part of a project launched in 2014, OHCHR sought to identify legal and practical measures to enhance accountability and access to remedy in cases of business involvement in severe human rights abuses. In May, a global online consultation was launched to solicit input from the widest possible number of jurisdictions on the issues. A first progress report (A/HRC/29/39) highlighted initial findings and key areas for further investigation, focusing in particular on the action of the States concerned in cross-border cases and on options for the funding of legal claims.

E. Widening the democratic space

74. The exercise and protection of public freedoms is fundamental to fostering transparency, inclusiveness, dialogue and tolerance, not least in the context of electoral processes. The High Commissioner is concerned that these rights have been increasingly attacked by State authorities, and also by armed groups, worldwide, targeting non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders, journalists, peaceful protesters and supporters of opposition parties. On several occasions, the High Commissioner has expressed serious concerns about such trends.

75. In an effort to increase the use of international human rights law and mechanisms by the electoral observation community, OHCHR and the Carter Centre co-chaired a meeting in February which brought together representatives from the electoral and human rights communities.

1. Support for national human rights institutions

76. Independent and strong national human rights institutions are key actors in the promotion and protection of human rights. OHCHR supported the establishment of national human rights institutions in compliance with the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (Paris Principles) (Benin, Botswana, the Gambia, Guinea, Senegal, Tunisia and Vanuatu). OHCHR also supported existing institutions, including through identification of gaps in practices and provision of relevant recommendations (Colombia, Mozambique and Uganda); support in monitoring cases (Guatemala and Uganda); training on human rights standards and the Paris Principles, handling complaints and monitoring and investigations (Egypt, Libya, Oman and Zimbabwe); or joint advocacy (Senegal, the Philippines and Uganda). In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, further to their appointment in April, OHCHR advised the commissioners of the national human rights institutions on the development of internal regulations to facilitate their operations.

2. Support for civil society, including human rights defenders

77. Several OHCHR field presences scaled up their engagement with authorities to ensure timely protection for human rights defenders under threat; trained civil society actors on protection mechanisms; launched public information campaigns; and developed mentoring schemes for civil society actors and protection networks (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Thailand). OHCHR continued its advocacy, in cooperation with civil society actors, regarding action taken by the Government of Hungary restricting the activities of organizations working on human rights.

78. OHCHR also launched a practical guide on "Civil Society Space and the United Nations Human Rights System", detailing procedures for handling allegations of reprisals arising in the context of Council sessions. OHCHR organized regular briefings by non-governmental organizations with the President of the Council and the secretariat to follow up on reprisals and exchange lessons learned and good practice.

79. The High Commissioner is concerned that those willing to cooperate with the United Nations continue to be subjected to fear of intimidation and reprisals. In the annual report of the Secretary-General on cooperation with the United Nations, its

representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights (A/HRC/27/38). OHCHR encouraged concerted action from all concerned to respond to intimidation and reprisals, including from the special procedures and the treaty bodies. The High Commissioner reiterates the support of the Secretary-General for the designation of a senior United Nations focal point on this critical issue.

80. Against this background, the current deadlock around Council resolution 24/24 must be overcome as soon as possible in the interest of human rights defenders, bearing in mind the need to uphold the status of the Council.

3. Freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly

81. OHCHR trained journalists on human rights, including reporting, and supported networking among journalists working on human rights topics.

82. Together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Council of Europe, OHCHR co-hosted an inter-agency meeting to evaluate the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. OHCHR continued to monitor and report on issues related to the safety of journalists (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen), developed the capacity of law enforcement officials (Tunisia) and provided technical assistance with respect to specific protection mechanisms for journalists (Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico).

83. In October, the OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East held a regional workshop to build the capacity of civil society actors and journalists to tackle incitement to hatred. In Madagascar, a media code was adopted following a workshop with journalists and media experts convened by the human rights adviser and the Ministry of Communication. In Chile, OHCHR launched a compilation of international and regional human rights standards relating to social protests, in collaboration with the national human rights institutions.

84. Worldwide, OHCHR provided advisory services on the development of human rights education, training policies and curricula (Colombia, Honduras, Kenya, Niger, the Russian Federation, Timor-Leste and Togo); and translated into local languages and disseminated human rights training material. In September 2014, as a contribution to the World Programme for Human Rights Education, OHCHR launched a new web-based resource, The Right to Human Rights Education, which brings together all human rights education commitments made by States in international and regional forums.

85. OHCHR continued its advocacy on the protection of the right to privacy in the digital age in a number of key forums and events, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Drawing on those activities,[14] OHCHR presented a report to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on the right to privacy in the digital age,[15] in which it examined the protection afforded to privacy by international human rights law. The issues raised in the report were the subject of a panel discussion on the right to privacy in the digital age held during the twenty-seventh session of the Council.[16]

[14] See A/HRC/28/3, para. 51.

[15] A/HRC/27/37.

[16] See www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/28/39.

F. Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

86. Human rights continued steadily to gain importance as part of United Nations system responses and actions on peace and security. OHCHR has been closely involved in interdepartmental discussions on early warning, particularly in the context of the Human Rights Up Front initiative of the Secretary-General, and has regularly drawn attention to emerging human rights risks at the country, regional and United Nations Headquarters levels.

87. The High Commissioner appreciates the opportunities provided to him and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to brief formally or informally the Security Council on specific country situations (Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iraq, South Sudan and Ukraine) and on thematic issues. The High Commissioner has also participated in open debates on the protection of civilians, conflict prevention and women, peace and security, protection of minorities in the Middle East and the human impact of small arms and light weapons. These interactions played an important role in supporting the Security Council to fulfil its mandate by highlighting human rights violations as an early warning tool for future violence and insecurity. OHCHR also provided regular input to the Expert Group on the Protection of Civilians and remained involved in the implementation of the Human Rights Up Front Action Plan, supporting and advising United Nations partners at Headquarters and in the field. In follow-up to the Action Plan, OHCHR developed an online course on United Nations human rights responsibilities, which will be mandatory for all United Nations staff. OHCHR also led an inter-agency task force to review current United Nations practices and recommend to the Secretary-General the establishment of a common information management system on serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, to ensure full use of relevant information from across the United Nations system so as to ensure rapid and adequate response to situations where serious violations are occurring, or are at risk of occurring. OHCHR continued to explore more flexible operational approaches in this regard, including through the deployment of multi-disciplinary "light teams", also under the Human Rights Up Front initiative.

88. OHCHR further advised human rights components on the implementation of key policy and operational frameworks, such as on conflict-related sexual violence and the implementation of the protection of civilians mandates and developing and reviewing mission-level strategies in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and MONUSCO.

1. Protection of human rights during violence and conflict

89. OHCHR continued to monitor human rights situations and to investigate human rights violations in often dangerous and challenging conditions in many regions of the world.

90. OHCHR deployed an investigation team to Iraq, pursuant to Council resolution S-22/1, to report on the human rights situation in the light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated

groups. OHCHR has also deployed a team, pursuant to Council resolution 28/30, to investigate violations and abuses of international human rights law committed in Libya since the beginning of 2014.

91. In Yemen, OHCHR expanded its monitoring in conflict-affected areas, and supported the establishment of referral mechanisms in seven governorates to provide assistance to victims of human rights violations.

92. The protection of human rights and international humanitarian law in the context of the conflict and violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to be the central focus of OHCHR, whereby monitoring and reporting is complemented by capacity-building activities with Palestinian actors. The Gaza sub-office remained operational throughout the 2014 conflict. Through its leadership of the Protection Cluster Working Group, OHCHR continues to mainstream protection into the humanitarian response and supports human rights organizations in the monitoring and documentation of possible violations of international law and provides legal assistance to victims, including two Gaza organizations, through resources from the Central Emergency Response Fund.

93. Between March and July, OHCHR deployed several human rights teams to Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria, to collect information on human rights abuses committed by Boko Haram, as well as violations perpetrated by State armed forces in the context of their operations against the group.

94. In Colombia, OHCHR was a crucial actor in the promotion of dialogue and negotiation as a means to solving numerous social conflicts between movements of indigenous people, Afro-descendants, peasants and the Government. In early 2015, OHCHR was facilitating 46 processes involving the Government and social movements at the local and national level to promote peaceful resolution and respect for human rights.

95. During the reporting period, OHCHR also published seven reports on the human rights situation in Ukraine, including on the conflict in the east of the country.[17]

2. Human rights, peace and security

96. Globally and in the field, OHCHR continued to enhance the integration of human rights in United Nations peace operations. OHCHR enhanced its peace missions support capacities in New York to strengthen its engagement with United Nations departments in charge of providing substantive and operational support to peace missions, the Security Council and Member States. The benefits of this move have already begun to be felt in the advancing of human rights concerns in United Nations mission planning and policy.

97. Progress and challenges relating to issues such as public human rights reporting, responsibilities of senior mission leaders and components, and cooperation on human rights between mission components and between departments at Headquarters were assessed in a review of implementation of the 2011 OHCHR/Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Political Affairs and Field Support policy on the integration of human rights in peacekeeping operations and political missions.

[17] Available from http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/ENACARegion/Pages/UAReports.aspx.

98. In October, the Office held a consultative meeting with the African Union Commission, during which both institutions identified areas in which OHCHR can provide support to strengthen the human rights work of the African Union in peace operations. As a result, training on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy for the African Union Peace and Security Department and the United Nations Office to the African Union was organized by OHCHR. This engagement to identify opportunities for ensuring that operational support provided to African Union peace support operations fully integrates human rights will continue.

99. OHCHR provided technical support to human rights components of peace missions, such as during the planning and start-up phase of MINUSCA or in the context of strategic reviews and assessments for MONUSCO, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq. OHCHR supported, with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the development of standard operating procedures in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) on information-sharing and follow-up action to prevent and respond to human rights violations, when allegations are received or observed by the Mission's police, corrections and military components. OHCHR also supported MINUSCA in furthering its capacity to address violations by assisting the Human Rights Division in developing systems for documenting and reporting on violations and, together with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, developing mission guidance on information-sharing among components and delivering induction training for uniformed and civilian peacekeeping personnel.

100. OHCHR also issued a report on human rights and the protection of civilians in peacekeeping: approaches, methodologies and tools and, together with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, supported the development of various United Nations policies and guidelines, including those for military components on the protection of civilians. OHCHR met with and prepared submissions to the High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations to further strengthen the effective integration of human rights in peace operations, including on the importance of public human rights reporting, mission leadership and readiness, and on adequately resourcing human rights work in peace operations.

101. OHCHR also supported the implementation of key United Nations policies for peace operations, including the policy on human rights screening of United Nations personnel for MINUSCA and the human rights due diligence policy with regard to MONUSCO, MINUSMA and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia. As co-Chair of an inter-agency review group on the latter policy, OHCHR led the development and issuance of a guidance note on the implementation of the policy.

3. Humanitarian action

102. OHCHR sustained its engagement in humanitarian action with a view to promoting the centrality of protection in responses to crises. It participated actively in Inter-Agency Standing Committee forums. With InterAction, OHCHR remained co-Chair of the Global Protection Cluster task team responsible for facilitating implementation of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee protection priority, including an independent review of protection in humanitarian crises, released in May.

103. OHCHR led the protection clusters in Palestine and Liberia (in response to the Ebola crisis) and the protection sector in Mauritania, and has been co-leading, with

UNHCR, the protection clusters in Ukraine and the Pacific. OHCHR is also an active member of the protection cluster responding to the Yemen crisis. The protection cluster in Haiti, led by OHCHR, was deactivated in January.

104. In the context of humanitarian crises, OHCHR deployed rapid response teams to the Central African Republic, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Ukraine (in relation to the Syria crisis) and Nepal. OHCHR also remained engaged in the humanitarian response in Myanmar and Yemen.

Chapter III
A structure for the future

105. In March, the High Commissioner announced his decision to launch a far-reaching organizational change initiative in OHCHR. This decision was made against the backdrop of a review of the organizational structure of OHCHR motivated by the fact that increasing demands from Member States, United Nations partners, rights-holders and civil society were outpacing available resources, particularly from the regular budget.

106. The change initiative seeks to move OHCHR beyond its current structural boundaries to become an organization that is flexible, adaptable and fit for purpose. The High Commissioner's vision for change is focused on making full use of the position of OHCHR as the principal reference point and advocate for international human rights standards and mechanisms, and placing a premium on strategic coordination, internal integration and consolidated partnerships within the United Nations and across the broader international system, with a view toward delivering as one office.

107. The changes also seek to better integrate work at Headquarters and in the field, rationalize the core functions of Headquarters divisions and facilitate internal coordination aimed at rapid and coherent responses to challenges and opportunities.

108. The first step towards the organizational changes will be focused on the decentralization of some Headquarters resources and the consolidation of existing regional capacities to create eight regional hubs. These hubs will strengthen the universal coverage of OHCHR and establish a balanced global presence. In New York, OHCHR has brought together its peacekeeping support functions to more effectively interact with its peace and security partners, reinforce its capacity in support of the new development agenda and the rule of law and mainstream its efforts in the work of Headquarters-based intergovernmental bodies. Further consolidation of functions is also foreseen for OHCHR headquarters in Geneva, to increase its effectiveness in supporting the United Nations human rights mechanisms and end duplication of effort.

109. These changes, which will strengthen the effectiveness of OHCHR to implement its mandate in line with General Assembly resolution 48/141 and its approved Strategic Framework, are also aimed at ensuring more effective and efficient interaction between Geneva, New York, regional hubs and other field presences. The High Commissioner counts on Member States to fully support this much-needed change initiative, which will require additional regular budget resources.

Chapter IV
Conclusions

110. This year marks the seventieth anniversary of the Charter of the United Nations. In its preamble, reference is made to the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to reaffirm) faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small. Progress made over the past decades to promote and protect all human rights for all has been remarkable. The activities of OHCHR, as well as those of the Council and its mechanisms and the treaty bodies, all supported by OHCHR, have grown exponentially in response to the paramount needs of the international community and of human rights victims worldwide.

111. Human rights are being given increasing attention by the United Nations leadership and members: this is reflected in the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front initiative, the post-2015 development agenda and the increasing engagement by OHCHR with the Security Council and other organs. Human rights are now widely recognized as one of the three pillars of our Organization.

112. The demands and responsibilities placed on OHCHR since its establishment in 1993 have grown steadily. Our leadership role is valued. Our work and advocacy in defence of human rights have had a significant impact on the lives of millions of individuals worldwide, even though the financial resources provided to OHCHR have been by no means commensurate with the challenges of our complex and evolving world.

113. Human rights are also taking an increasingly prominent place in traditional and social media. Our strong voice in defence of human rights is valued and our outreach to the media has met with encouraging results. Our presence in social media has given us important new channels through which to increase the visibility of human rights.

114. Against this background, appropriate regular and extrabudgetary resources, including for the trust funds, should be made available as soon as possible to enable OHCHR to better fulfil its mandate.

115. The most precious asset of OHCHR is its staff. The High Commissioner would like to pay tribute to all his colleagues for their unfailing dedication and hard work to end suffering worldwide. The road to a world free of human rights violations is still long. The High Commissioner is committed and ready to make the necessary organizational changes to make OHCHR more effective in the discharge of its promotion and protection mandates, with the support of all our partners.

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